



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

NEWS RELEASE

Department of Toxic Substances Control

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John Alexander Research Site Certified

Rosamond - - The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) today announced the certification of hazardous waste removal and cleanup at the John Alexander Research (JAR) site located at 1753 Sierra Highway in Rosamond. Certification means that all activities to cleanup the site have been completed. DTSC also placed a deed restriction on the property to limit future land use to industrial or commercial purposes.

The JAR site is a five-acre site that contained uncontrolled hazardous wastes in the form of drummed materials, laboratory chemicals, waste piles, and a sump. Soils at the site were contaminated with heavy metals such as lead, copper, and zinc as the result of improper hazardous waste and material handling practices.

The site was formerly owned by the Platalloy Corporation which was in operation as early as 1960. The site was used by the Platalloy Corporation for recovering precious metals from ore. Platalloy operated a silver smelter on the property. In 1981 the property was sold to Dr. John Alexander the owner of JAR. The site was purchased with plans to develop a nickel catalyst recycling operation using spent nickel catalyst from the food processing industry as raw material. Over a four-year period, JAR stored, on site, 1180 55-gallon barrels of nickel catalyst and bulk (non-containerized) catalyst.

Approximately 6,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil and debris have been consolidated onsite in the southwest corner of the property to an area measuring approximately 150 feet by 150 feet. The area is capped with compacted soil, an aggregate base, and asphalt. The deed restriction placed on the property will ensure that it is only used for industrial or commercial activities in the future.

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The Department of Toxic Substances Control's mission is to restore, protect, and enhance the environment and ensure public health, environmental quality and economic vitality by regulating hazardous waste, conducting and overseeing cleanups, and developing and promoting pollution prevention.

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"The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption. For a list of simple ways you can reduce demand and cut your energy costs, see our Web-site at www.dtsc.ca.gov."